

The drawings stand objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) for failing to show the light-receptive areas of the plurality of sensing means having overlapping portions. Figure 12 also stands objected to for failing to show that overlap. Applicants submit that the specification describes that the areas *from which the plurality of sensing means sense light overlap*, and that this feature is shown in Figure 12.

The drawings also stand objected to for failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) because they include reference signs not mentioned in the description, and do not include reference signs that are discussed in the description. Applicants have amended the specification herein to attend to some of the matters noted in the Office Action with respect to these objections. In addition, accompanying this Amendment is a Request for Approval to Amend the Drawings in which Figures 4 and 12 are being amended to attend to these objections.

The specification and Claim 6 stand objected to because the term “apparatus” is used in instances where the term “method” is intended. Applicants have amended the specification and Claim 6 to correct this matter.

Claims 1, 3, 6, and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,320,292 (Oikawa, et al.). Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over the Oikawa, et al. patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,341,155 (Elrod, et al.). Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over the Oikawa, et al. patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,838,302 (Kuriyama, et al.).

As recited in each of the independent claims, Applicants’ invention is generally directed to a plurality of sensing means/units, arranged in one coordinate axis, for

sensing a beam spot, wherein portions of areas from which the plurality of sensing means/units receive light overlap.

The Oikawa, et al. patent is directed to a coordinate input apparatus. As discussed in the Office Action, that patent describes sensors superposed one above the other. However, those sensors align with each other so as to intersect at right angles. Thus, Applicants submit that this patent does not describe sensors arranged in the same coordinate axis which have overlapping areas from which those sensors sense light. In addition, the Office Action states that the Oikawa, et al. patent describes the correction means of the present invention, at col. 12, lines 44-67, because that portion of the patent states that detection outputs and noise outputs produced by respective photodetector element arrays are applied to a differential amplifier to correct detection outputs. However, the correction means of the present invention is for correcting results related to pixels detected by sensors having overlapping sensing areas. Accordingly, Applicants also believe that the Oikawa, et al. patent fails to describe the correction means/step of the present invention.

The Elrod, et al. patent is directed to a method for correcting a position location indicator for a large area display system. The Office Action merely cites this patent as describing the use of a table of calibration data. The Kuriyama, et al. patent is directed to a data input device for inputting typed and handwritten data. The Office Action merely cites this document as describing a system program for controlling the operation of an electronic circuit for communication. Applicants submit that these documents do not remedy the deficiencies noted above with respect to the Oikawa, et al. patent.

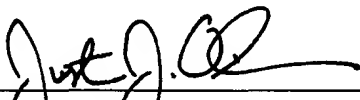
Accordingly, the Oikawa, et al., Elrod, et al., and Kuriyama, et al. patents, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least the features of a plurality of sensing means/units, arranged in one coordinate axis, for sensing a beam spot, wherein portions of areas from which the plurality of sensing means sense light overlap, as recited in independent Claims 1, 6, and 11.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the independent claims are distinguishable over the applied references, and request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

The remaining claims in the present application are dependent claims which depend from the independent claims, and thus are patentable over the documents of record for reasons noted above with respect to those claims. In addition, each recites features of the invention still further distinguishing it from the applied patents. Applicants request favorable and independent consideration thereof.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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**VERSIONS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW
CHANGES MADE TO SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 12, line 17, and ending at line 23, as follows.

--[The tip of the designating tool 4 is provided with the switch 43B. This switch is operated by pressing the tip of the designating tool 4 against the screen 10.] The tip of the designation tool 4 is provided with the cap 46 which works as the switch 43B by pressing the tip of cap 46. In the preferred embodiment, since the switch 43B identifies with the cap 46, the switch 43B is only shown in Fig.2. The operator grasps the designating tool 4 and presses its tip against the screen, thereby establishing the pen-down state. Thus, a natural pen input operation can be performed without needless operation of buttons.--

Please amend the paragraphs starting at page 35, line 21, and ending at line ,
as follows.

--Fig. 14 illustrates an arrangement in which the coordinates of the linear
CCDs 26 of the respective linear sensors 20Xa, 20Xb are disposed conceptually, each with
pixels 1 through 64. Since the detection areas of the linear sensors 20Xa, 20Xb have the
overlapping portions, as described earlier, Fig. 14 results when these coordinate positions
are overlapped.--

**VERSIONS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW
CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS**

1. (Amended) A coordinate input apparatus in which light from a designating tool is applied to a prescribed position on a coordinate input screen to produce a beam spot and coordinates corresponding to the beam spot are generated, the apparatus comprising:

a plurality of sensing means, [provided in the vicinity of at least] arranged in one coordinate axis, for sensing the beam spot;

correction means for correcting results of sensing from each of said plurality of sensing means;

concatenation means for concatenating data that has been corrected by said correction means; and

output means for outputting coordinate values corresponding to the beam spot based upon the data concatenated by said concatenation means;

wherein [light-receptive areas of said plurality of sensing means have overlapping portions] portions of areas from which said plurality of sensing means sense light overlap.

5. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said correction means corrects the results of sensing from each of said plurality of sensing means based upon a magnification, which is for calculating coordinates, set for each of [the] said plurality of sensing means.

6. (Amended) A coordinate input method in which light from a designating tool is applied to a prescribed position on a coordinate input screen to produce a beam spot and coordinates corresponding to the beam spot are generated, the [apparatus] method comprising:

a correction step of correcting results of sensing from each of a plurality of sensing units, [provided in the vicinity of at least] arranged in one coordinate axis, for sensing the beam spot;

a concatenation step of concatenating data that has been corrected at said correction step; and

an output step of outputting coordinate values corresponding to the beam spot based upon the data concatenated at said concatenation step;

wherein [light-receptive areas of the plurality of sensing units have overlapping portions] portions of areas from which the plurality of sensing units receive light overlap.

7. (Amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein said correction step corrects the results of sensing from each of [said] the plurality of sensing units based upon reference coordinate values that have been stored in advance.

8. (Amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein each of [said] the plurality of sensing units is a linear sensor comprising a plurality of optoelectronic transducers arrayed on a straight line.

9. (Amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein said correction step corrects the results of sensing from each of [said] the plurality of sensing units based upon inclination of a second sensing unit relative to a first sensing unit among [said] the plurality of sensing units.

10. (Amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein said correction step corrects the results of sensing from each of [said] the plurality of sensing units based upon a magnification, which is for calculating coordinates, set for each of the plurality of sensing units.

11. (Amended) A computer-readable memory storing coordinate-input program code[, for performing a method] in which light from a designating tool is applied

to a prescribed position on a coordinate input screen to produce a beam spot and coordinates corresponding to the beam spot are generated, said program code comprising:

program code of a correction step of correcting results of sensing from each of a plurality of sensing units, [provided in the vicinity of at least] arranged in one coordinate axis, for sensing the beam spot;

program code of a concatenation step of concatenating data that has been corrected at the correction step; and

program code of an output step of outputting coordinate values corresponding to the beam spot based upon the data concatenated at the concatenation step;

wherein [light-receptive areas of the plurality of sensing units have overlapping portions] portions of areas from which the plurality of sensing units receive light overlap.